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1.15	to 1.45	15
1.45	to 2.15	20
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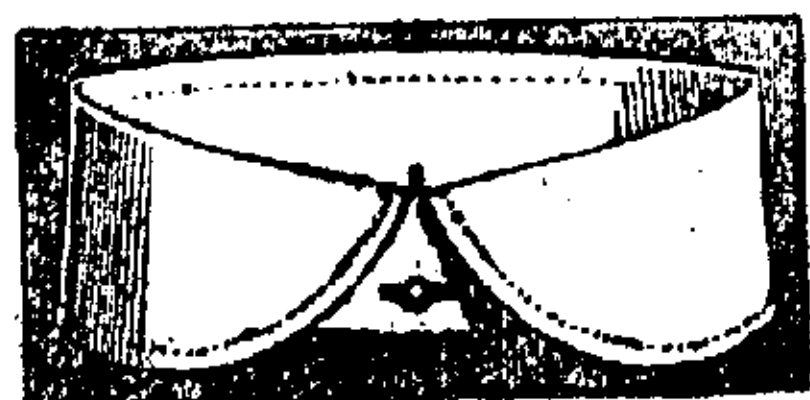
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IN PRAISE OF RIGHTEOUS WAR.

[BY JUDGE WALTER MALONE.]

I am coming not in a weakling's verse with a miller's feeble whine, With uplifted hand and with soft-voiced drawl, aghast at the battle-line; But I come to praise the fight that is fought for the sake of Truth and Right; The fight that is fought for God and for Home, that will mate the Right with Might.

Yes, patience is good, and humility, too, and so is the pipe of peace; But the time will come when forbearance ends, and your sugary smiles must cease; Then either your hand must grip a gun and brighten the sword from its rust, Or your slavish neck must bend to the yoke, and your mouth must, chew the dust.

You must fight for the fire that toasts your feet, for the roof that shelters your head, For the hand that yields you its milk or meat, for the field that gives you bread; You must fight for bed, you must fight for board, for the woman you love the best, And, Oh, you must fight with a tenfold will for the baby at her breast.

When a mad dog comes down your village street, with the green foam in his jaws, Do you greet him with Bibles and hymn-books, and lovingly bid him pause? When a rattlesnake rises amidst your path, alert with its fiery sting, Do you pet him, and pat him, and wish him well, and a song of welcome sing?

When a big-armed bully among the Powers says the folk of a little land Must sprawl in the dirt and confess to a crime that never besmirched their land, Do you blame that people that rise, up a pigmy ready to fight, A David aroused, with only a sling, defying Goliath's might?

When a vain war-lord with a swollen head, inflamed with a brute desire, Through a little State that was lapped in peace comes tramping with blood and fire, Despoiling the fields and looting the towns—do you blame that blameless State—for rousing in Godlike righteous wrath and hitting with righteous hate!

And war is the great Arouser: it silences whispering tongues; It toughens the muscles, it hardens the fist, and brings fresh air to the lungs; The it comes with torch and it strikes with steel, and shortens life's petty span, That life it exalts to heroic heights, so a man is twice a man.

Yes, patience is good, and so is peace; but he is not worthy of good Who will not rush forth when the spoiler comes to defend it with his blood; When that spoiler comes with his bandit crew to shatter with shot and shell, Let the good man rise, with a fervent prayer, and give him hell for hell!

The Commercial Appeal.

FAR EASTERN MEN AND THE WAR.

Lieut.-Col. Lawrence, Drew Shaw, awarded the Distinguished Service Order, was in practice as a doctor in China prior to the war, and volunteered to be given a commission in the R.A.M.C. He was through the evacuation of Suifu Bay and Cape Helles. Since May of last year he has been in France, where he has a field ambulance command.

WAR NEWS.

A NOTED SOCIALIST.

M. Hjalmar Branting, the Swedish Socialist leader, who declares that the Kaiser must go before the peace of Europe can be assured, was the first Socialist member of the Swedish Parliament. He was elected in 1896. Now he is the leader of a party that consists of considerably more than 100 members. M. Branting is also the editor of a Socialist daily with a considerable circulation. His wife is a well-known Swedish novelist.

BELGIUM AND RUSSIA.

The Congress of Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates from all Russia concluded its discussion of war aims on June 24th.

M. Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist Minister, said: "We are completely in agreement with the Congress as to the aims of the war. But there are differences of opinion as to the means and methods. You have just put an end to despotism, but we were free before the war. At the present time our brother Belgian workmen are the slaves of William II. With the rejoicing which the Russian Revolution caused in Belgium there is now mingled a certain anxiety as to whether it will prove to be capable of solving the problems presented to it. After what I have seen and heard I carry away with me from Russia a very favourable impression."

M. Tchekhedze, president of the Congress, assured M. Vandervelde that the Russian democracy fully sympathized with the sufferings of Belgium. "You knew," he said, "as we do, what the road is which can lead to speedy peace. You understand the significance of that struggle for a general peace. Russia is solely animated with the desire to reject any other peace than one based on the principles proclaimed by the Revolution. One thing you can be assured of, that the liberty of Belgium is as dear to us as the interests of the Russian democracy."

BANK'S LIABILITY ON ALTERED CHEQUE UNSUCCESSFUL APPEAL.

The Court of Appeal (composed of Lords Justices Swinfen Eady and Scrutton and Mr. Justice Bray) delivered a considered judgment in the case of Macmillan and Arthur v. London Joint Stock Bank, upon the appeal of the bank from a judgment of Mr. Justice Sankey in the Commercial Court.

The short facts were these:—Messrs. Macmillan and Arthur had in their employ a confidential clerk, whose duty it was to fill in cheques for signature. The clerk presented to Mr. Arthur, one of the partners in the plaintiff firm, for signature a cheque for £2 drawn in favour of the firm, the clerk stating that he required that amount for petty cash. Mr. Arthur signed the cheque, but his evidence was that when he signed it there were written on the cheque the words "Two pounds" and the figures "£2 0s. 0d." were in the space provided for the purpose. The clerk subsequently altered the cheque to £120, presented it for payment at the defendant bank, with which the plaintiffs kept an account, and obtained payment of and absconded with £120. Plaintiffs brought the present action, claiming that the bank was liable to refund £120, upon the ground that the bank had signed away on a forged cheque. The question in the case was whether the plaintiffs were guilty of any negligence which misled the bank. Mr. Justice Sankey held that the signing of the cheque by Mr. Arthur in the circumstances did not constitute negligence such as to prevent the plaintiffs from recovering from the bank the amount paid less £2. From this decision the bank appealed.

Lord Justice Swinfen Eady, in the course of his judgment, said the bank contended that on the facts as found it was entitled to judgment on the ground that the plaintiffs entrusted their clerk with the duty of filling up cheques after signature so far as they were left blank, and that in the circumstances the plaintiffs were alone responsible for what had happened. The bank denied liability, relying on section 20, sub-section 2, of the Bills of Exchange Act. The question was whether the facts established such negligence as prevented plaintiffs recovering from the bank. It was the duty of the customer not to mislead the bank, and if he did so on a material point, he could not expect the bank to bear the loss suffered. A case might arise where the customer wrote so badly that it led to the bank paying out a larger sum than the customer intended, and in such a case the customer would have to bear the loss arising from his own indistinct expressions. In the present case he did not think that the plaintiffs had been guilty of such negligence as to relieve the bank from liability. Plaintiffs had no reason to suspect the honesty of their clerk. In his opinion the judgment of Mr. Justice Sankey was right, and that the appeal failed and should be dismissed with costs.

The other members of the Court agreed.

BRITISH CASUALTIES.

A MONTH'S TOTALS.

Following, says the Daily Telegraph, are details of the losses given under the principal headings in the War Office casualty lists issued from May 1st to May 31st. The lists include casualties reported from all points at which our armies are engaged:—

	N.C.O.s and Officers.	Men.
Killed	1,088	17,703
Died of Wounds	315	6,415
Died	45	1,043
Accidentally Killed	10	63
Drowned	5	1
Wounded	3,741	78,888
Wounded and Missing	122	401
Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned	126	232
Missing	532	5,528
Prisoners of War	6	241
From these must be deducted the following:—		
First reported killed, wounded, or missing; afterwards reported not killed, wounded, or missing	9	258

This leaves the totals as follows:—
Officers 8,921
Men 107,675

The figures for December, January, February, March, and April respectively were:—

	Officers	Men
Officers	953	
Men	39,711	
Officers	953	
Men	32,498	
Officers	1,918	
Men	16,277	
Officers	1,765	
Men	28,709	
Officers	4,381	
Men	31,619	

The full list includes a number of modifications of casualties previously reported. The above individual figures must, therefore, be taken as approximate, although the totals are affected by the modifications referred to.

From the Admiralty during the same period have been issued lists of casualties sustained by officers and men. Of these the details are:—

	N.C.O.s and Officers.	Men.
Killed	36	629
Died of Wounds	8	94
Died of Injuries	0	6
Died	6	19
Drowned	4	55
Accidentally Killed	5	5
Wounded	52	1,374
Injured	12	0
Missing, Believed Killed or Drowned	7	0
Missing	45	167
Prisoners of War	0	5
Total	177	2,347

SHIPPING NEWS.
JAPANESE SHIPPING.

Returns issued by the Mercantile Marine Bureau in the Communications Department show that, at the end of last month the total number of Japanese steamers ranging from 20 to over 10,000 tons was 2,110, aggregating 1,707,325 tons. Sailing-vessels numbered 9,808, representing 628,657 tons. The following table shows the number of steamers of over 500 tons:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
500 tons and over	133	172,511
1,000 tons and over	177	197,842
2,000 tons and over	120	315,898
3,000 tons and over	82	276,387
4,000 tons and over	32	142,558
5,000 tons and over	31	176,283
6,000 tons and over	17	110,331
7,000 tons and over	11	82,116
8,000 tons and over	6	57,052
9,000 tons and over	6	71,905
10,000 tons and over	4	14,753

The following table shows the number of vessels engaged on various foreign routes at the end of last month:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
European	22	69,697
American	53	211,978
Australian	4	10,787
Indian	17	50,161
South Pacific	4	14,753

SIAM AND THE ALLIES
HER STRENGTH AT THEIR DISPOSAL.

Reports from Bangkok (says a Manila exchange) state that Siam will place her available strength at the disposal of the Allies. Siam has an army of 15,000 men, peace strength, but as universal service, on the European plan, has been in operation for several years, she can mobilize an army on full war strength of 80,000 men. The total number of Siamese liable for military service is given by latest estimates as 1,550,855.

The best trained as well as the most mobile portion of the armed forces of Siam is the Marine Infantry, recruited from the inhabitants of the maritime provinces, between the ages of 18 and 40 years. Its nominal war strength is 15,000, exclusive of a first and second reserves of 3,000 and 2,000 men respectively.

The Navy consists of 21 vessels, all of small size and doubtful value, with the exception of a destroyer and four torpedo boats obtained from Japan in 1908, and a second destroyer built in Japan in 1912.

ONE CHIVALROUS GERMAN SAILOR.

ADMIRAL VON SPEE AND THE "MONMOUTH" IN 1912

In *The Cornhill* for June Mr. Bennett Copplestone tells a story of von Spee which we are glad to quote in justice to a brave foe whose chivalry is in vivid contrast with the conduct of the German Navy to-day. It should be premised that in 1912 and 1913 the captain of the *Monmouth*, the senior English naval officer on the China Station, and Admiral von Spee, commanding the German Far-Eastern squadron, were close and intimate friends:—

In December, 1912, the *Monmouth* was cruising in the Gulf of Pechili, which resembles a long flask with a narrow bottle neck. Admiral von Spee, who was lying with his powerful squadron off Chifu, in the neck of the bottle, received word from a correspondent that the second Balkan War had brought England and Germany within a short distance of "Der Tag." Von Spee and his officers did not clink glasses to "The Day"; they were professionals who knew the English Navy and its incomparable power; they left silly boasts to civilians and to their colleagues of Kiel who had not eaten of English salt. Count von Spee thought first of his English friend who, in his elderly cruiser, was away up in the Gulf at the mercy of the German squadron, which was as a cork in its neck. He at once despatched a destroyer to find the *Monmouth's* captain and to warn him that though there might be nothing in the news it were better for him to get clear of the Gulf. "There may be nothing in the yarn," he wrote, "I have had many scares before. But it would be well if you got out of the Gulf. I should be most sorry to have to sink you." When the destroyer came up with the *Monmouth* she had returned to Wei-hai-wei, and the message was delivered. Her skipper laughed, and sent an answer somewhat as follows: "My dear von Spee, thank you very much. I am here. *Pyrrhic, Pyrrhic*. I shall expect you and your guns at breakfast to-morrow morning." War did not come then; when von Spee did meet and sink the *Monmouth* she had another captain in command, but the story remains as evidence of the chivalrous naval spirit of the gallant and skilful von Spee.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

MEETING OF COMMANDERS.
A meeting of Company, Platoon, and Section Commanders will take place at Headquarters Club at 5.45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 28th. Uniform optional.

INSPECTION.
All ranks will be inspected by the D.S.P. (R) on Thursday, August 30th. Fall in at 5.45 p.m. Detailed orders will be issued.

PRESENTATION.
A presentation by the Police Reserve to P.C. 681 Gaskell will take place at Headquarters Club on Friday, August 24th, at 6 p.m.
Hongkong, August 22nd, 1917.
(Sd.) T. F. HARRIS, Capt., A.S.P. (Reserve)

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
OPIUM.

For being in possession of four taels of opium, a Chinese was fined \$25 by Mr. Wood.

MEAN THEFT.

Mr. Wood sentenced a Chinese to nine months' hard labour and four hours' stocks for stealing two bangles from the wrist of a seven months' old child, which was being carried on its mother's back in Canton Road, Kowloon.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

A Chinese, who was defended by Mr. Guy Haywood, was charged before Mr. Dyer Ball with obtaining from two men, by false pretences, two sums of \$19.40 and \$20.80. The defendant, it was stated, represented himself to have been sent by the owner of a cargo boat to collect the sums of money.

The case was adjourned until next week.

PARTNERS.

One of the two partners in a fish stall which does business at the Central Market appeared before Mr. Dyer Ball on a charge of fraudulently converting to his own use the sum of \$1,006.36, being money with which he had been entrusted to pay debts due against the firm.

Mr. Gardiner appeared for the complainant partner, and Mr. Leo D'Almada defended.

Only formal evidence of arrest was taken, and the case was then adjourned for a week, bail being fixed at \$1,000.

AT THE SEARCHLIGHTS.

On Tuesday evening a number of Chinese assembled under the searchlights at Kennedy Town, which is contrary to regulations.

An Indian constable asked them to move on and they all complied with the exception of three men. These became abusive when again asked to move on, and they assaulted the constable. The latter was able to arrest one of the men, and when charged before Mr. Wood yesterday, he was fined \$20 for assaulting the constable and \$5 for refusing to obey the constable's instructions.

CHASING A PICK-POCKET.

An American engineer, named Peter Lindfors, residing at the Astor Hotel, charged a Chinese, before Mr. Dyer Ball, with stealing from his pocket the sum of \$9.

The American said that he was walking along Queen's Road, near the Grand Hotel, on Tuesday evening, when he felt someone bump against him. He put his hand to his pocket, found that his money had gone, and, upon looking around, saw a man running towards the sea front, down Lee House Street. Complainant ran around the other way, by the Hongkong Hotel, and when coming into Des Vœux Road he saw two men conversing. As he approached them they ran away. He gave chase, and Trooper 95, of the Mounted Police Reserve, also joined in the chase. Eventually, one of the men was caught in the passage between Jardine's and Whiteway, Laidlaw's, and the \$9 was found in his possession.

When charged, the defendant alleged that the American pulled a handkerchief out of his pocket and the notes dropped out. He (defendant) picked them up, and the American gave him 45 cents. He (defendant) wanted \$1, and when he asked for this amount the American struck him, and he ran away.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced the defendant to three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

ANOTHER HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

The police have received a report of another highway robbery.

A Chinese fortune-teller, residing in Ho Cheung village, between Kowloon City and Sai Kun, has reported to the Police that he was proceeding to Kowloon City on the afternoon of August 20th when he was attacked by two men. One of the men stabbed him in the back with some blunt instrument, and he had money and jewellery stolen from him to the value of \$26.60.

The man's assailants got away. The wound is not a serious one.

KAISER'S SON-IN-LAW BACK FROM THE WAR.

A Vienna dispatch says that Prince Ernst August of Cumberland, Duke of Brunswick, a son-in-law of the Kaiser, has arrived in Upper Austria to recuperate. He is suffering from nervous prostration. He commanded a corps on the western front.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE MILITARY SERVICE BILL

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I think that Mr. Davidson is to be heartily congratulated upon his letter which appeared in your issue of the 21st inst.

The Bill, to my mind, constitutes a gross and unwarranted interference with the liberty of the subject.

That the interference is "gross" has been conclusively demonstrated by Mr. Davidson; and that it is "unwarranted" is shown by the fact that the compulsory powers sought to be acquired are wholly unnecessary by reason of the circumstance (attested by both the Secretary of State for the Colonies in England and by His Excellency the Governor in Hongkong) that, with this exception of an infinitesimal number, all those under obligation to do so are already rendering service to the State and Colony in either one of the Volunteer Forces or the Police Reserve.

This being so, one naturally turns to the explanations ancillary to the Bill offered by its sponsors to the Members of the Legislative Council—with the startling result that it is discovered that His Excellency the Governor, in intimating that he was not prepared to accept the very modest and certainly most apposite amendment suggested by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that the duration of the Bill should be measured by that of the War, gave vent to the following:—

"It had been suggested that it (the Bill) should only be for the period of the War, but he was not prepared to accept an amendment to that effect. He thought, after the experience of this War, that we should hardly commit such a retrograde step as to go back in any part of the Empire to a condition where universal service was not recognised as absolutely essential."

Surely, upon reflection, His Excellency will see that the above remarks represent the exact reverse of the true situation, for what could possibly be more retrograde than that the result of this War to end Militarism should be to foster Universal Military Service, and thus enable a system such as that sought to be created by the Bill in question to fatten on the very vitals of those who have fondly imagined that they were expending their energies during the War to an entirely different end.

That a scheme of Universal Military Training for a limited number years (say 18 to 24) so as to enable British subjects to be duly equipped to meet a case of emergency would be a great desideratum goes without saying, but to extend that idea to a scheme of Universal Military Service such as is indicated in the Bill now before the Legislative Council would be indeed a retrograde movement, and one that would, in course of time, go far to change the character of Great Britain's subjects for the worse, and would alike constitute a direct menace to their liberties and a detriment to their worth as subjects of that Empire which has done so much to uphold the rights of Freedom.

Shades of Pym and Hampden! defend us from so retrograde a movement as is now under consideration by the Members of one of the many foster-daughters of that Mother of Parliaments under whoseegis our courage and genius gave us almost all that we now possess of Liberty and the Power of Free Expansion.

Let those who at this juncture have confided to their keeping the destinies of British subjects in this not unimportant British Colony remember that the policy of Conscription as introduced into Great Britain was only so introduced because of the fact that Voluntarism, though responded to magnificently in the earlier stages of the War, failed in its later stages to produce the desired number of men—a situation which differs from that obtaining in this Colony—and, further, let them remember that the policy of Conscription so introduced is limited to the duration of the War.

Let them also remember that those who give cheerfully are apt to resent compulsion when, as under present circumstances, it is entirely unnecessary.

Let me quote the following from that great Constitutional writer, the late Mr. (Continued at foot of next column.)

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—The appearance of a rather cautious champion of the Military Service Bill in the shape of the author of the editorial of the *South China Morning Post* of this morning is my excuse for troubling you again in this matter.

The editorial in question does not reach a very high controversial level, and would perhaps not be worth noticing if it did not appear as an editorial—a shape in which it may carry more weight than it deserves, especially with those who read it without much care.

It opens by stating that with certain exceptions the Bill in its general principles seems to meet with cordial approval. The expression "seems" saves the author from committing himself to anything very definite, but I shall be interested to know who are the persons whose cordial approval has blessed the Bill. In the next sentence prudence still sits heavily upon the editorial pen. He tells us that the Volunteers who have been through the mill for the last three years welcome the measure for the better organisation it gives promise of. As far as organisation alone is concerned, I dare say that this is true, but it does not happen to be the point.

In dealing with the undertaking of H.E. the Governor as to reconsideration of the measure, the author informs us that the "local Defence Corps is purely a War measure" I and—so far as I can gather—a great many other persons in this Colony, disagree. And this does happen to be the point. But since the author is so well-informed of the Government's intentions, he can, perhaps, tell us why the words "for the period of the War" were omitted from a war measure.

He next makes a rather remarkable statement:—"With that promise, as far as we are able to judge, the loyal sons of the Empire who have already been serving as Volunteers are satisfied. The others do not count." This is either untrue, or else it means that the Volunteers who are not satisfied with the prospect of reconsideration are not loyal and do not count. We can leave this gentleman on the horns of that dilemma.

The editorial closes with an insinuation that I wrote my letter to you of the 20th August from personal fear of conscription for myself. That may or may not be, but may I remind the author that I have at least had the courage to commit myself to something, and the decency to avoid irrelevant personalities?—I am, etc.,

EDGAR DAVIDSON.

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1917.

Henry Hallam, in reference to the subjection of the English Parliament to Military Authority:—

"Here may be said to have fallen the Legislative power and Civil Government of England; which from this hour till that of the Restoration had never more than a momentary and precarious gleam of existence, perpetually interrupted by the sword."

"Those who have once bowed their knee to Force, must expect that Force will be forever their Master."

I would also urge that it be borne in mind that Hongkong is not exactly situated in the Temperate Zone, and that, in a climate such as holds sway here for over half the year, hard-working men at the age of 45 are really more advanced in Life's journey than those of the same age at Home—in which respect I would add that the Home limit for liability for Military Service is not 55 but 45.

Finally, I would suggest that those who would be prepared to exchange their present status for that indicated in the Military Service Bill should remember that Military methods in regard to Administrative affairs are, on occasion, liable to sacrifice a good deal to what is deemed to be the "expediency" of a situation and to override the equities thereof in a somewhat ruthless manner, with results at times the reverse of beneficent—witness the following incidents vouched for by the Commission appointed by Parliament to enquire into the operations in Mesopotamia, and extracted by me from the Report thereof published in the issue of *The Times* of the 27th June last:—

1.—When General Cowper, A.Q.M.G. in Mesopotamia, energetically represented the need for more river transport in January, 1916, the Commander-in-Chief, at the Viceroy's instigation, telegraphed:

"Please warn Gen. Cowper that if anything of this sort occurs, or I receive any more querulous or petulant demands for shipping, I shall at once remove him from the force and will refuse him any further employment of any kind."

2.—When Major Carter represented to Sir John Nixon the condition of the wounded after Ctesiphon, General Cowper says:—

"I threatened to put him under arrest, and I said that I would get his Hospital Ship taken away from him for a meddling, interfering faddist."—Yours faithfully,

J. SCOTT HARSTON.

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1917.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Many readers must be grateful to you for your leader and remarks on the local Defence Corps Bill at present under the consideration of the Legislative Council.

In a Colony such as this, where the British subject has only a very small voice in the administration of affairs, one of the chief things to prevent is any measure which further curtails the freedom of speech and action of the subject. There is no doubt that the chief characteristic of this measure is that it takes away the civil rights of practically every British male in the Colony, and does so, not for the duration of the war, but for life.

The official members of the Legislative Council as Civil Servants are already tongue-tied. But why muzzle the rest of the community? We all know that a certain amount of muzzling and regimentation may not only be necessary, but useful, in war-time, but this measure is evidently not intended for war-time merely. The Governor, in a speech which, to say the least of it, did not have a very English sound, made this clear when he foreshadowed a perpetual military régime after the war.

Then the extreme age-limit is evidently fixed so that *everybody* will always be under the military thumb. Forty, at home, is considered a fair limit for effective military service, and certainly the limit in a climate like this should be less. Even in times of stress, forty-five would be ample. Many of the business men of the Colony retire by the age of fifty. What effective service can be expected from men from forty-five to fifty-five? But even when it is admitted that men over fifty cannot be expected to do full military service their liberty is still bound—their duties are to be lightened at the discretion of the O. C. F. Men of forty-five to fifty-five, as free citizens in no way dependent on the favours of the O.C.F., would be of more service to the Colony as such than they could ever hope to be as effective military units.

You have already dealt with another aspect of the measure. Among the many objects we are fighting for in this war some of us thought the crushing of militarism was one; instead of this we are to have the whole male population from eighteen to fifty-five in its clutches.—Yours,

"LIBERTY."

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Referring to the Military Service Bill now before the Council, it would appear, from its contents, that the effect of the present war is to be the substitution of British Militarism for German.

What do we say we are fighting for? The destruction of the German Military Machine; I have heard no mention of a substitute. Perhaps it's a "dark horse" being brought out on the Q.T. in this secluded spot.—Yours truly,

DOWN WITH IT.

Des Vœux Road, Hongkong,

22nd August, 1917.

P.S.—Perhaps the "Peace cranks" knew about it.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—*"I. M. Pecunious,"* in your paper of to-day, speaks of the advantages of the Army Act. They are very poor advantages when compared to the disadvantages of the Act.

It is very seldom that one is called to serve on a jury, and I am sure most of us would rather serve on a jury than be under the Army Act.

Does *"I. M. Pecunious"* think that shopkeepers and others are such fools as to give credit of over £40 to members of the Defence Corps when they know full well the terms of the Army Act?—Yours faithfully,

PAUPER.

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1917.

[It is possible that *"I. M. Pecunious"* thought that all shopkeepers might not know the terms of the Army Act, and that when they did know it might prove a serious hindrance to business.—Ed., H.D.P.]

MUTINY IN ANTWERP.

A report from the frontier to the *Telegraf* confirms the rumours relating to the mutiny of three hundred German troops in Antwerp, who threw down their rifles when they were ordered to go to the front. They were quickly overpowered and taken to the barracks, handcuffed.

MR. ALABASTER AND SLAVERY IN HONGKONG.

IMPORTANT POINT RAISED IN KIDNAPPING CASE.

There was another kidnapping case before the Chief Justice at the Hongkong Criminal Sessions yesterday when a Chinese, who was attired in European clothes, and is said to be a prospector, was charged with kidnapping two little girls, aged 10 and 13 years, on July 20th.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted, and Mr. C. G. Alabaster (instructed by Mr. Leo D'Almada) defended, and pleaded not guilty.

The Crown Solicitor said that on the day of the kidnapping the two girls, who were living with two mistresses who had bought them as servant girls, at Wanchai, went out at noon on July 20th, to being sweets, they having been given ten cents by their mistresses. It seemed that when they were out they lost their way and they met the defendant and asked him to show them the way home. The man said he would do so, and he then took them on to a tramcar. They had a ride and then the defendant took the girls to Yaumatei and back. Upon reaching Hongkong again the girls were taken to the Wing On store, and, some time afterwards, the man was arrested, along with the girls, near the Harbour Office.

One of the mistresses, when cross-examined by Mr. Alabaster, said that she bought her girl (the elder one) from the girl's elder brother because he was a poor man; she paid \$100 for the girl. She also said that the other mistress also bought the other girl for \$140; because the brother was a poor man. At this stage the Crown Solicitor said it was impossible to call the second mistress, as she was too ill to attend. Sgt. Doring was called to say that when he saw the woman she had an affection of the legs and was unable to walk.

The Chief Justice—How long ago was that?—Four days, my lord.

"And you have not seen her since?—No, my lord."

The Chief Justice remarked that that was most unsatisfactory. The Crown should have done something in a case like that. A doctor should have been sent, and the woman should have been seen that morning. For all they knew the woman might be quite well now. After that Mr. Alabaster made a submission which produced a mild sensation in Court. He said that he would suggest, as a result of his cross-examination, a certain course which might shorten the case. He would move that the prisoner be discharged on the evidence given, which did not disclose the offence charged upon the indictment. The offence charged was that of unlawfully and feloniously taking away two female children, with intent to deprive two persons having lawful care of such children and possession of such children.

"If it has been proved in the clearest possible way," added Counsel, "that these two women did not have lawful care of these children; these children were two slaves, and slavery has been abolished. It cannot be alleged in any of these Courts that these children were in the lawful custody of these two women. Whatever else may be charged, this indictment cannot now stand in the case of two slaves. One hundred and forty-six dollars and \$100 was paid for them. They were bought to serve, or for any other purpose, and they were sold as slaves, and slavery, as I have said, has been abolished, and it is not lawful."

The Chief Justice remarked that it was a very common thing for servants to be bought in that Colony.

Mr. Alabaster—The Court does not allow it.

The Chief Justice added that someone must have the custody of such children. If the children were not slaves he assumed that the mistresses would have the lawful custody of them.

Mr. Alabaster said that his cross-examinations had clearly proved that the two girls were slaves, and was proceeding to quote from the Act to amend and consolidate the laws relating to the abolition of Slave Trading (Archbold, Act 113 of 5, Geo. 4th, section 2).

The Chief Justice remarked that the proper time for taking such an objection would be at the close of the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Alabaster then resumed his seat.

The elder girl said she relied on the prisoner, to take her home again, and that was why she did not complain to passers-by.

By the Chief Justice—She did not receive any wages from her mistress. She once had some lucky money given her, but all she received in return for her services was her "chow."

The mistress was recalled, and, in reply to the Chief Justice, said that, of course, the girl did not receive any pay from her, as her elder brother had already received \$100 for the girl.

What right had the brother got to sell her?—I don't know what right, but as he was poor he sold her. She added that the girl had no parents.

The Chief Justice—Then her brother traded her?—Yes.

Then, as put by the learned Counsel for the defence, she is your slave?—I do not know what you mean by slave. Once the girl is sold to me she is my property. It is the custom among the Chinese to buy servants.

Witness added, in reply to further questions, that it was the custom that once a girl was bought she received no wages whatsoever. It was also the custom for brothers to sell their sisters.

Mr. Alabaster said he thanked his Lordship for having made it so clear that the girl was a slave.

The hearing was adjourned.

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KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, AMOY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the position of SECRETARY and SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE to the KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Amoy. Applicants should give full particulars on the subject of their previous experience. A knowledge of Hindustani would be preferable. A good working knowledge of Accounts is absolutely necessary. Copies only of testimonials need be sent in with the application.

The successful candidate will assume office on 14th February, 1918.

He shall perform all the duties of Secretary, and Superintendent of Police.

The maximum salary to be paid to such Secretary will be \$300.00 per month (Amoy Currency), with an annual increase of \$25.00 per month to a final maximum of \$350.00 per month.

He will be provided with Uniform, Light, Fuel and also Quarters.

The Quarters will be in the Municipal Building, and must be occupied by the Secretary appointed.

Applications must be endorsed "APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY," and should reach Amoy not later than November 30th, 1917.

By Order of the Council.

T. W. DOBSON, Secretary, K.M.C.

Kulangsu, Amoy, August 17th, 1917. [963]

WANTED.

A complete set of the ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA. Reply stating price, what edition and condition.

Box 20, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [961]

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Care of COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES, HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. [994]

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PUBLIC COMPANIES

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF ONE DOLLAR (\$1) per Share for Account 1917 will be payable on FRIDAY, the 24th August, 1917. Shareholders are requested to apply for Dividend Warrants at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Hongkong.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 20th August, 1917, to FRIDAY, the 24th August, 1917, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Managers, Hongkong, 10th August, 1917. [935]

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's Hotel, on SATURDAY, 1st September, 1917, at 12.15 p.m., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts of the Company to 30th June, 1917, with the Report of the Directors, and to discuss any matter that may be competently brought before the Meeting.

THE TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 25th August, 1917, to 1st September, 1917, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
J. H. TAGGART,
Manager and Secretary, Hongkong, 20th August, 1917. [966]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 3432 dated Hongkong 19th February, 1900, for 50 Shares numbered 54319 to 54343, 12033 to 12037, 52840 to 52849, 4186 to 4190 and 45811 to 45815 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 dated Hongkong, 5th July, 1907, for 25 Shares numbered 88205 to 88230, all Registered in the name of Sir CARL MAYNE, Bart., have been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate and this Provisional Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 2nd September, 1917, new Certificates for the Shares will be issued and the aforesaid Certificate No. 3432 and Provisional Certificate No. 43371 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation as Null and Void.

By Order of the Court of Directors,
N. J. STABE,
Chief Manager, Hongkong, 1st August, 1917. [901]

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION).

(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND).

Unredeemed Bank Notes.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any OUTSTANDING NOTES will be paid on presentation to the undersigned on or before SATURDAY, 29th September, 1917, at Noon.

AFTER THAT DATE, holders will find it necessary to claim repayment IN STERLING from the BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, to whom the necessary funds will be remitted.

THE BOARD OF TRADE make a charge for payment of claims out of monies deposited in the "COMPANIES LIQUIDATION ACCOUNT" at the Bank of England.

A. R. LOWE, Liquidator.

Chartered Bank Building, Hongkong, 18th August, 1917. [936]

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA BOMBAY, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS AND LONDON.

THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR BATAVIA, AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL, AND SOUTH AFRICA PORTS.

THE Homeward Mail Steamer, carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this port as usual, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports. Passengers, accommodation in the connecting vessel secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuables and Tea and Cargo for Italy, France and London (under arrangement) will be conveyed by this Steamer proceeding via Bombay to Marseilles and London.

Parcels will be received at the Office until 3 p.m. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required.

For further particulars, sailing dates, etc. apply to

E. V. D. PARR, Superintendent.

NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

KONINKLYKE PAKETVAART MAATSCHAPPY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"s" JACOB

having arrived from the above ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by 25th inst. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard and Douglas on the 24th inst. at 10 a.m.

Claims against the steamer must be presented in writing within 10 days after arrival of steamer, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by the undersigned in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN, Agents, Hongkong, 18th August, 1917. [963]

KONINKLYKE PAKETVAART MAATSCHAPPY.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship

"VAN WAERWYCK"

having arrived from the above port, Consignees of Cargo by her are notified that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by 26th Aug. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined by Messrs. Goddard & Douglas on the 24th August, at 10 a.m.

Claims against the steamer must be presented in writing within 10 days after arrival of steamer, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by the undersigned in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN, Agents, Hongkong, 19th August, 1917. [963]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN

JAVA-PACIFIC LIJN.

THE Steamship

"TIKEMBANG"

having arrived from Java and Makassar, Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after Noon the 30th inst. will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 30th inst. or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN, Agents, Hongkong, 20th August, 1917. [964]

S.S. "AMAZONE,"

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from Havre, &c., in connection with above Steamer are hereby informed that their Goods with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded on unless intimation is received from the Consignees before NOON TO-DAY requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining unclaimed after the 27th inst. at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All Claims must be sent in to me on or before the 30th inst. or they will not be recognized.

All damaged packages will be examined on SATURDAY, the 26th inst. at 10 a.m.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

P. THOMAS, Agent, Hongkong, 20th August, 1917. [962]

FOR SALE.

PACKETS OF PORTUGUESE POSTAGE STAMPS (no duplicate) containing

40 Stamps for \$1.00 10 Stamps for \$2.75
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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 23RD AUGUST, 1917.

THE PROBLEM OF INDIA.

An announcement of far-reaching importance has just been made concerning the Indian Army, and the effect of it will be felt throughout the great dependency which has proved its deep loyalty to Great Britain during the three years of struggle for the freedom of the world.

The Secretary of State for India has stated that commissioned rank in the Indian Army will be granted to nine native officers who have served in the war. This great innovation, which is not the least remarkable of the many which have resulted from the war, has been vigorously urged by Colonel REYNOLDS, a writer who has been responsible for a good many of the recent reforms connected with the Army. It will be remembered that, as Military Correspondent of the Times, he exposed the shortage of high explosives, and, by the publicity which he gave to the disadvantages under which our troops were fighting in France and Flanders, he was largely instrumental in bringing about the creation of the Ministry of Munitions. It is probable that his suggestion that an Indian Sandhurst, for which the staffs of Quetta and Wellington could be utilised, will be followed. Although this is a democratic age, no statesman with experience of Eastern races supposes that it is possible yet to administer India on the same general principles as Canada and Australia. It will, therefore, we believe, be a wise precaution to have a system of nomination of members of ruling families for conspicuous positions. The caste system in India is so rigid, and the traditions of the great country are so firmly rooted in the past, that it would be sheer folly to attempt any reforms which ignored such important factors of Indian life.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the radical nature of the present innovation. We are glad that such practical recognition has been made of the splendid services rendered by India to the Empire during the time of trial. It would be ridiculous to suppose that officials in India have been free from anxiety during the last three years, for we know that the Germans have done their utmost to seduce the Indian people and soldiers from their allegiance. With that curious mixture of bombast and conceit for which they have become famous, German writers of the BERNARDINI school announced, before the war, that the natives of India were to be incited to "revolt." The pre-arranged programme was carried out by Germans in India at the outbreak of war, in the manner which we have learnt by bitter experience to associate with German *kultur*. On the one hand, the Indians were told how glorious a thing was liberty, and, simultaneously, they were taught that Prussianism, the antithesis of liberty, was the one great doctrine necessary for their salvation. German gold, German lies, and German spies flooded the country. In India, as elsewhere, the Germans abused every privilege, and plotted ceaselessly to produce sedition. They failed, as Prussianism in all of its vicious forms has failed. All that is best in the complex population of India remained loyal to the King-Emperor. Indian troops formed a part of the screen behind which Kitchener's Army and the troops from Overseas were trained and equipped. The full story of the heroism and suffering of those Indian troops has not yet been told. They came from the hot climate of their own country into the clay and mud of a bleak, unwooded Flanders; and they helped to hold the trenches which kept the Germans out of Calais. Heavy indeed were their casualties and great their sufferings. When it was decided to bestow upon some of them the highest award for bravery on the field of battle, the British public applauded the announcement. The Indian troops had proved themselves eligible for the Victoria Cross, with its simple but magnificent inscription: "For valour." When the first Indian soldier carried that coveted decoration upon his breast, it was at once apparent that a new era for the Indian Army had dawned, and the granting of the nine commissions is a natural sequel.

Mr. MONTAGU made other announcements of the utmost importance to India.

It is especially noticeable that the Secretary of State will visit the great Dependency in the coming winter. A scheme intended to pave the way for self-government is clearly contemplated.

Recently, at Lucknow, Sir JAMES WESTON told the Legislative Council that those who direct the affairs of India are not hostile, but favourable, towards greater freedom in Indian national life. The problems connected with self government, however, are many. It still remains for those who desire it so urgently to prove their fitness for such responsibilities.

The administration of the past has had its critics, and it has not been perfect; but it has, at least, produced a Civil Service which has been a model of integrity. The sympathy of the British Government with the country has been practically demonstrated by the initiation of public works, irrigation schemes, educational facilities, and countless other reforms. Among the failures of these efforts must be included the comparatively new product of India, the "failed B.A." The Oriental student of a Western University, with his queer smattering of modern literature or law, has not always been a success. The technical colleges have not yet produced natives qualified to take up executive positions of responsibility in the Public Works Department. These are symptoms which bid us beware of proceeding too fast with reforms in Indian administration. On the other hand, we should watch with close sympathy the aspirations of the people. The British have every reason to be proud of their record in India, and they have earned the gratitude of the people. They will continue to work patiently for the gradual elevation of the masses. They will not condemn a nation because of a few agitators, but will remember the adage: "Whoso judges harshly is sure to judge amiss." The ambition of the best men in India is to make the country worthy of a position in the Councils of a united British Empire, and we are confident that they will succeed.

Owing to the uncertainty of the weather the Garden Party at Mountain Lodge, fixed for to-day, has been postponed until Thursday, 30th inst.

The substantive rank of Lieut.-Colonel has been given to Majors W. B. Anley, D.S.O., and Major F. A. Twiss, M.V.O., D.S.O., both former Hongkong officers of the R.G.A.

Dr. Koch, who is about to retire from the Government Service, has been presented with a silver tea-caddy and kettle by the Sisters and Nurses of the Government Civil Hospital and with a silver crumb-tray and bread-fork by the Amahs.

The Naval Quadrille Club held a whist drive in the Royal Naval Theatre on Tuesday evening. There was a fair attendance. Chief Writer Smith, R.N., acted as M.C., and, at the close of play, handed prizes to the following successful players:—Ladies—1st, Mrs. Gerrard; 2nd, Mrs. Black; 3rd, Mrs. Mac. Men—1st, Mr. Bacon; 2nd, Mr. Simmonds; 3rd, Mr. Hutchinson.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

QUESTIONS BY HON. M. POLLOCK.

A meeting of the above is to be held on Friday afternoon, at 2.30.

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., will ask:—

(1)—What was the number of

(i.)—Junks;

(ii.)—Other vessels or boats; which were damaged at or off Cheung Chau (Dumb-bell Island) in the recent typhoon of the 13th August, and what does the pecuniary loss represented by such damage come to approximately?

(2)—What are the present means adapted for communicating to the Police at Cheung Chau the fact that certain typhoon signals have been hoisted in Hongkong? Is it not practicable to improve such means of communication?

(3)—Are the Police at Cheung Chau provided with typhoon signals, and, if not, will the Government consider the advisability of such provision being made?

The "Orders of the Day" are as follows:—

Second reading of the Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to make provision with respect to military service and to provide for the establishment, maintenance and control of a local defence corps."

Second reading of the Bill intituled, "An Ordinance to amend the Special Police Reserve Ordinance, 1914, and to remove doubts as to the effect of proclamations made under section 10 of the said Ordinance."

*Will not be proceeded with at this meeting.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

CHINA AND THE WAR.

PEKING, August 22nd.

The French President has cabled congratulations to the President of China on the declaration of war.

The Government has received a telegram from Chan Ping-kwan stating that he approves of the declaration of war and will obey the Cabinet's orders.

The French Minister to Peking is shortly returning to France.

The Chinese Minister to Vienna has wired the Government stating that he will go to Switzerland.

Li Chun yesterday took up the post of Tsuchun of Kiangsu.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE EXPEDITION TO HUNAN.

CANTON, August 22nd.

The Local Authorities sent a deputy to Shamen yesterday to accompany the British Consul in taking over the German Bank.

Canton troops under San Po-fan's and Mok Wing-san's command have been ordered to make ready to go to Hunan shortly.

Chan Ping-kwan has ordered all the gunboats to be repaired for the expedition.

The Commander of the 3rd Division has asked for \$200,000 for the expenses of the troops going to Hunan.

The Admiralty has announced that no junks must go near the gunboats at night time.

THE WAR.

SIMULTANEOUS OFFENSIVE ON ALL FRONTS.

ALLIES' PLANS MATERIALISING.

SPLENDID WORK BY ITALIAN ENGINEERS.

BOWDY SCENES AT THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

HEAVY FIGHTING ROUND LENS.

LONDON, August 21st.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Early this morning we attacked and captured the enemy's positions on a front of 2,000 yards westward and north-westward of Lens.

Heavy fighting occurred and continues. We beat off two strong counter-attacks north-westward of Lens.

Our artillery broke up a third counter-attack southward of Lens and we captured a number of prisoners.

We repulsed raiders north-eastward of Messines.

Our aeroplanes were successful, despite the enemy's aggressiveness.

We brought down nine and drove down seven enemy machines. Four of our machines are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

THE NEW OFFENSIVE.

ENEMY'S LINES RAIDED.

LONDON, August 21st.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a *communiqué*, says: The enemy's third attempt to regain ground recently lost south-east of Epéhy, supported by *flam-mthrowers*, was completely repulsed and all the positions were held. We raided the enemy's lines on a wide front on the St. Quentin Canal and secured prisoners. We have improved our positions on the Ypres Menin Road.

BIG FRENCH CAPTURES.

LONDON, August 21st.

A French *communiqué* states: The Germans attacked at three different points on the Cerny Plateau. Twice our fire broke up the waves, which finally turned back after severe losses. The enemy counter-attacked with extreme violence north of Verdun during the night, notably at Avocourt wood and north of Caurieres Wood. Our fire broke up the assaulting troops, who sustained heavy losses without any result. We maintain all our gains, which we are consolidating. Yesterday we took 5,000 prisoners, including 118 officers.

CANADIANS FIERCELY ENGAGED.

LONDON, August 21st.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters states:—The Canadians around Lens launched another attack converging upon the western environs of the town at half past four in the morning. Dawn broke with a thick haze and when the infantry went over the top they saw masses of shadowy grey figures advancing towards them. The Germans had planned an attack at the identical moment to ours, and probably one of the most desperate hand-to-hand battles of the war ensued. An eye-witness says the Germans fought like cornered rats. The struggle raged in the shell-torn and wire-encumbered No Man's Land, the bayonet being the principal weapon used. Gradually the Canadians beat back the Huns, and about fifteen minutes after the clash the enemy were making their last stand on the parapet of their trench. Then they retreated as rapidly as possible into the ruins of Lens, and almost immediately a furious machine-gun fire broke out. The northern part of the Canadian attack from the direction of Cite St. Emile made good progress. Strict orders had been given that the advance should not be pushed beyond given limits. The

centre and southern portion of the attack was more fiercely resisted, and the latest news is that fighting is still progressing. A good many prisoners, a large proportion of whom are wounded, have been brought in.

TROOPS FROM GALICIA.

AMSTERDAM, August 21st.

News from the Frontier states that numerous troops from Galicia are arriving in Flanders.

GERMAN ADMISSIONS.

LONDON, August 21st.

A German *communiqué* admits that the French captured Morthomme and Hill 344 and a portion of Fosse Wood. The *communiqué* further goes on to state that the French losses were extraordinarily high and concludes:—"A battle is developing from which we anticipate a favourable result." It declares that the offensive at Verdun was demanded by England.

MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE AIR.

LONDON, August 21st.

A French *communiqué* says:—Enemy aircraft during the night bombarded our rear, particularly the prisoners' collecting camp, where a great number of prisoners were hit. Our aircraft bombarded railway stations at Dun sur Meuse, Brioules and Flaville and also a dump at Bantreville, where a great fire broke out, while in Belgium we bombarded railway stations at Thourout, Roulers, Seaden and Gits. Our pilots brought down yesterday twenty-one German machines, most of which were totally destroyed.

DELIGHT IN FRANCE.

PARIS, August 21st.

Everybody is delighted at the maintenance of yesterday's big results. The Verdun attack opened in the presence of General Petain and M. Painleve. M. Thomas Hutin, writing to the *Echo de Paris*, says the time has arrived for Germany to realise that the great decision has come not in the East but in the West. The coming victory will enable the Americans to be ready to participate in the final blow.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BELGIAN COAST RAIDED.

LONDON, August 21st.

The Admiralty announces that the Air Service, at midnight on Sunday, dropped many tons of bombs on a dump at Middekerke and on the Brugse Works. All the machines returned safely.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

VIOLENT ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, August 21st.

An Eastern *communiqué* states:—There is a violent artillery duel at the Cerna bend and north of Monastir. Our destructive fire caused explosions in two enemy heavy batteries' ammunition dumps.

Fifty Allied aeroplanes dropped a ton and a half of bombs in the neighbourhood of Prilep, causing many fires. No French establishment was damaged by the big fire which took place in the Bulgarian quarter of Salonika on August 18th.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FINE WORK BY THE ENGINEERS.

ROME, August 22nd.

The *Tribuna* describes the splendid exploit of the Engineers in bridging the Isonzo north of Anzovo. The construction was carefully and silently carried out the night preceding the first day's battle. The enemy opened fire when they were aware of what was progressing, but the Engineers continued their work undisturbed although sometimes the smoke from the bombs flung along the river banks covered up the workers. Directly the bridges were finished the infantry crossed between Tolmezzo and Anzovo and were soon firmly established on the left of the Isonzo. The enemy thereupon strengthened their defences, organising four defensive lines. The battle nevertheless continues hotly. Aeroplanes aided inestimably and dropped twenty-five tons of explosives.

EARLIER CABLES.

ITALY'S NEW OFFENSIVE.

LONDON, August 21st.

Reuter has received, from a competent military authority, a commentary on the new Italian offensive, in the course of which the latter says that there must be no talk of a march on Trieste. He says:—

"I should call Italy and the Allies very fortunate if the immediate objectives were attained. These are, briefly:—On the south, the solid possession of Mount Hermada, which will furnish her with the necessary jumping-off point for a future definite push towards Trieste; or, if the events of the war should call her in the other direction, with a sure defensive link in the Italian front on this side. In the centre, to assure the invulnerability of Gorizia and the bridgehead connection with that place. On the north, the complete and indisputable possession of the most essential parts of the plateau of Bainsizza, as a basis for future operations on a vast scale, and as a mighty bulwark preventing the Austrians from taking advantage of that wooded table land to move their troops and supplies with impunity, which greatly helps their resistance."

ENEMY CAMP IN DANGER.

DIFFICULT ADVANCE.

UDINE, August 21st.

While the definite Italian objective is not yet clear, the crossing of the Isonzo near Canale may threaten to envelop the entrenched camp, at Tolmino. However, the advance is confronted with many obstacles, the most formidable being Tolmino, in the north, and the Comer Hermada line, in the south, connected by a curtain of great mountains, chiefly the Sauts, San Gabriele and Vestolba groups, forming a succession of bastions where it is difficult to say whether the natural or artificial fortifications are the stronger.

MANY PRISONERS.

LONDON, August 21st.

A wireless Italian official message says:—The battle on the Julian Front is uninterrupted. Our troops on the extreme right, despite undiminished resistance are advancing successfully supported by floating and fixed batteries and monitors. The struggle continues in the Corno Plateau and the coastal zone. The enemy's line is beginning to bend and give way at various points. We carried the enemy's defences between Cortice and Selo. Two hundred and sixty-one of our aeroplanes, flying over the battlefield, bombed moving troops. We had taken prisoner up to Monday evening 10,103 men and 243 officers. We destroyed a storming party in the Lagarina Valley and counter-attacked and drove back the enemy south-east of Mtoain.

General.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

SONGS AT THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

THE "RED FLAG" AND "KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING."

LONDON, August 21st.

The Labour Conference was characterised by much rowdiness.

After the announcement of the figures the majority sang the "Red Flag." The minority, led by Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., countered with "Keep the Home Fires Burning." Mr. Thorne shouting out "Yes, wait till the boys do come home."

The narrow majority is not likely to cause the Government to reverse its decision not to grant passports. The Sailors' Union is determined not to assist in carrying the peace-mongers.

The Conference crushingly defeated the Executive's allocation proposals in regard to the representation at Stockholm, which included special representation of Independent Labourites and other minor bodies. The Conference decided that the Party delegation should number twenty-four.

TROUBLES IN SPAIN.

THE DEATH ROLL.

MADRID, August 21st.

The official figures of the victims in the recent trouble show that they exceed seventy deaths whereof thirty-seven were in Barcelona. A hundred people were injured in Madrid and still more in Barcelona.

ANOTHER LOAN FROM U.S.A.

AMERICA'S ESTIMATED WAR EXPENDITURE.

WASHINGTON, August 21st.

A further ten millions sterling has been loaned to Great Britain, making the total loan three hundred and ninety three millions.

Senator La Follette, in presenting the Minority Report of the Finance Committee to the Senate, urged the increase of the estimated revenue of the War Tax Bill by 300 millions sterling by imposing greater taxation on the wealthy and on war profits. He predicted that in 1918 America's war expenses would reach between 30 and 40 billion dollars.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYED.

LONDON, August 21st.

The Admiralty announce that Light Forces operating on the coast of Jutland this morning destroyed a Zeppelin.

There were no survivors.

EARLIER CABLES.

INVALIDED OFFICERS. EMPLOYMENT IN THE EAST.

LONDON, August 21st.

The Hon. E. S. Montagu announces that, in consultation with Mr. Walter Long, a committee has been formed to meet at the India Office in order to assist disabled and 'invalided officers desirous of obtaining employment in India, Burma, the Eastern Colonies and the Malay States.

Applications from such officers of all branches of the Services, with Indian or Eastern experience, are invited.

RUSIAN MINISTERS' NEW POWERS.

PETROGRAD, August 21st.

The Government has given the Ministers of War and Interior dictatorial powers to arrest and deport anybody suspected of anti-revolutionary tendencies.

GERMAN COLONIES.

LONDON, August 21st.

Professor Mahaffy, the Provost of Dublin University, in a letter to the *Times*, on the subject of Germany's restitution suggestions, says that as Germany cannot repay us our losses we must repay ourselves. We conquered the German Colonies owing to the zeal and activity of the Overseas Dominions and we must keep them. If the Dominions have one spark of the spirit of Englishmen, they will simply refuse to restore them. Besides, who will compel them? We are not going to permit the German Fleet to do so.

LABOUR AND THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE.

MINERS CHANGE THEIR VIEWS.

LONDON, August 21st.

The miners' decision means the transfer of six hundred thousand votes from Mr. Henderson to those opposing the Stockholm Conference. The transfer does not secure a majority against Stockholm on the basis of the voting on August 10th, but reduces it to vanishing point and there are indications that the miners' vote will influence other unions, at today's conference, thus overwhelming those who favour the sending of delegates to Stockholm. The most notable feature of the transfer in the change of the Northumberland miners, who, hitherto, have always been pro-peace, yesterday's meeting showing a growing feeling in favour of a referendum, on the ground that the decision of August 10th misrepresents Labour opinion. The *Daily Telegraph's* Labour correspondent is informed that ninety per cent. of the cotton operatives will vote against Stockholm.

LABOUR CONFERENCE FAVOURS SENDING DELEGATES.

LONDON, August 21st.

The adjourned meeting of the Labour Party regarding the Stockholm Conference was held in London. Mr. Henderson, in the course of a personal statement, denied that he had intentionally withheld any material information from the previous Conference and declared that Mr. Kersky to-day favoured British representation at Stockholm. Mr. Henderson urged them not to insist on the withdrawal of Labour members from the Government, because that would be subversive of the successful prosecution of the war.

Mr. Hutchinson, a member of the Executive, moved:—"The Conference remains of opinion that it is desirable that British Labour should be represented at Stockholm, in order that its opinions may not be misunderstood or misrepresented. The Conference regrets the Government's intention to refuse passports and requests that further representations be made on the subject."

Mr. Fairchild, of the Socialist Party, moved an addition to the resolution, that, the policy of Labour being incompatible with the policy of the Government, the Conference decides to withdraw Labourites from participation in the Government.

Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., opposed the resolution and said there was only one man in Germany who could make peace, and that was the Kaiser. Mr. Smilie, the President of the Miners' Federation, approved to Mr. Fairchild to withdraw the addition, to which request Mr. Fairchild assented.

Mr. Barnes said that in joining the War Cabinet he was acting in accordance with the expressed views of Labour. He believed it would be a bad thing for Labour to leave the Government. He intended to continue to support the Government to establish the freedom of the world.—(Cheers). He was opposed to the Stockholm Conference because no good could come out of it. Germany had all to gain and nothing to lose by such a Conference. Before he accepted a seat in the War Cabinet he wrote the Premier urging the retention of Mr. Henderson. Mr. Barnes finally affirmed that the sending of delegates to Stockholm would weaken the Government and a durable peace could not be secured thereby. He did not object to a consultation at the proper time and the proper place, but the present was not the time and Stockholm was not the place.—(Cheers).

An amendment that the question of the Stockholm Conference should be submitted to a Referendum of the Trades Unions affiliated to the Labour Party was defeated on a card vote by 1,800,000 to 650,000.

The Conference re-affirmed its decision to send delegates to the Stockholm Conference, by a card vote of 1,234,000 to 1,231,000.

NEW MUNITIONS COUNCIL.

LONDON, August 21st.

A Munitions Council, on the same lines as the Admiralty and Army Councils, has been established to co-ordinate the work of the fifty Munitions Departments, which will be classified into ten groups, each group being represented on the Council. The Ministry now employs two million workers, the headquarters staff numbering 13,500, and it is hoped that the Council will result in economy and fuller utilisation of resources.

GERMAN MENDACITY.

LONDON, August 21st.

The *Daily Telegraph* publishes a facsimile of the now famous Kaiser's letter to President Wilson, thus finally disposing of the frantic and clumsy German denials of its validity.

GERMANY AND NEUTRALS.

DISREGARD FOR LIFE.

LONDON, August 21st.

Reuter is authoritatively informed in connection with the mysterious visitation of German aeroplanes to Holland, cabled on August 19th, that the explanation is that they intended raiding England but returned owing to bad weather. As a bombing machine cannot alight before disposing of its bombs, the raiders had to get rid of them. If they had done so over Belgium, it might have resulted in killing German troops, so accordingly they waited until they were over Holland, where they could only kill neutrals.

THE MILITARY SITUATION INTERESTING REVIEW.

LONDON, August 21st.

A review of the military situation states that with the opening of the Verdun offensive the whole of the Western Front, from the sea to the Swiss frontier, over a distance of 430 miles, is now ablaze. There is unprecedented gunfire and bombings are unceasing day and night. The pounding of guns is plainly audible in England. The artillery duel at Verdun is particularly stubborn, as both sides, with a thousand guns, are well-matched, but the French infantry's magnificent dash turned the scale. The battle is still in its opening phases, but the mere fact that the French are able to take the offensive on the greatest scale at Verdun is a dramatic illustration of the changes in the fortunes of war since the Crown Prince's adventure in 1916. Moreover, the Germans at the very height of their concentration on Verdun were never able to strike on both banks simultaneously, as the French did. A French correspondent reveals the interesting fact that the Germans were so surprised by the infantry assault that they only put down the barrage twelve minutes after the French went over, allowing the latter to pass the danger zone unscathed.

The Italian advance demonstrates the perfect synchronisation of the Allies' operations, which are the nearest approach yet attained to an all-round offensive. It does not indicate the strength of the forces engaged, but the Germans estimate that the Italians have 5,000 guns, not including British heavy guns. The Italians now have only one very serious obstacle between them and Trieste, namely the formidable Hermada heights. These heights hold the flower of the Austrian Army. Bristling batteries are the storm centre of the offensive. The Italians are attacking all round from Dossò Faite, on the extreme left, to Monradone Grado. Nothing can save Trieste if Hermada falls. The Italians are confident of getting these heights this time. Altogether the Western offensive is the biggest thing of the war and will relieve the Russo-Balkan fronts. Already there are signs that it is severely taxing the resources of the German Staff, but the full effects will not be felt immediately.

THE SALONIKA DISASTER.

TWO THIRDS OF TOWN DESTROYED.

ATHENS, August 21st.

The Cabinet is discussing measures for the relief of the sufferers of the Salonika conflagration, for which a large credit will be voted. There is no direct communication with Salonika, to which the Minister for the Interior has gone. It is stated that two-thirds of the town is destroyed and that a hundred thousand people are homeless.

100,000 HOMELESS.

It is officially confirmed that 100,000 are homeless in Salonika, including 40,000 Jews. There are no indications of foul play.

NEW HUNGARIAN PREMIER.

LONDON, August 21st.

Alexander Wekerle has been appointed Premier of Hungary.

BRITAIN AND THE POPE'S NOTE.

PARIS, August 21st.

The British Minister has informed the Vatican that the British Government has acknowledged the Pontifical Note, which it will examine in a benevolent and serious spirit.

COTTON TRADE RESEARCH.

LONDON, August 21st.

Messrs. Tootal, Broadhurst, Lee & Company, have made a donation of £10,000 a year for five years towards textile research and education in the cotton trade. Institutes and laboratories will be established. A Provisional Committee is issuing a prospectus of the new aided organisation.

PARLIAMENT ADJOURNS.

LONDON, August 21st.

Parliament has been adjourned, to October 16th.

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

LONDON, August 21st.

A message from Petrograd states that M. Miliukoff, addressing the Municipal Council, declared that the Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates had neither authority nor ability to assure the defence of Russia. The Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates' efforts had resulted in a fatal waste of time in discussion. He denied that the Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates represented anyone.

SILVER.

RECORD PRICE REACHED.

LONDON, August 20th.

The price of silver is quoted at 44½d. Trade orders have caused an advance and the market is firm.

NEW YORK, August 21st.

Silver has reached the record price of 87½ cents. It is predicted that it will yet reach a dollar, as the floating supply is limited and the world's demands exceed the production.

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"THE CRIMES OF THE BEASTS WHO ARE RUNNING GERMANY."

GERMAN PRISONER'S FIERCE DENUNCIATIONS.

"THANK GOD I AM OUT OF IT."

That all Germans are not being duped by the promises of victory is shown in the following candid statement made to a British officer by a German prisoner. This man, who had lived in the United States without being naturalized, was in England when the war broke out. Fearing to be interned, he crossed to the Continent, made his way into Germany, and was called up for service at the time of the Somme offensive. Here is his statement as jotted down by the British officer:

"This war is the greatest crime the world has ever seen. The crimes that made the French Revolution are nothing if you compare them with the crimes of the beasts who are running Germany to-day and keeping this war going. They are only thieves and brigands when they began it, and thought they'd bring it off; but now they are the bloodiest murderers by wholesale that the world ever produced. There never was anything like it before. They know perfectly well that they've lost the war; they know for months that the day chances they ever had have gone. But they are too frightened of their own miserable people to admit of it, and call a halt; and because they are frightened of what the people might do when they learn the truth they keep the thing going, and sacrifice many thousands of Germans every single day and millions of money. For what? To shield the reputations of a handful of princes and politicians. It's the greatest crime the world has ever known."

"Here on this front our people are being killed like flies. Your artillery kills them in bunches. There isn't a minute of the day but legs and arms are being blown off. Our men would gladly give themselves up to end it, but you know they cannot. When there seems to be a chance there is always an officer or N.C.O. about. It is not only your guns that kill. Many Germans fall every day with German bullets in them. They are driven like dogs to the fighting. Kaiser to what end? Because our statesmen are afraid of their lives for what will happen to them when the people know it's all up."

WHY NOT TELL THE TRUTH?

"But plenty of them know it now. Many knew before ever I was forced to join up. And perhaps I never should have been made to join if I had known less and not said a word of what I did know. I talked a little of what I knew. And that is enough. In Germany to-day the man who will tell the truth must be hustled out of the way. That is why I see no hope for Germany. Those left in the country have no spirit; can do nothing. All the strength of the country, such as it is, is in the fighting lines—helpless as slaves. The others, there in Germany, they are slaves—starving, starving quietly, never daring to say a word. The few who speak soon find themselves hustled into the front line, and no more is heard of them. They go on paying the price thousands of lives every day; every single day. The Central Powers' casualties now must be a hundred thousand a week. And all for what? The crazy dreams of a few bankers and politicians and of the Hohenzollerns. They say the Hapsburgs, too; but the Austrians would be thankful to make peace to-morrow, but they cannot. They are as much sacrificed by Berlin as we poor devils are here on the front. All the bloody slaughter of this war, with its millions of money and thousands of lives lost—every single day—what for? Going long after it has been finally decided is not the will of the nations. No, it is the murderous criminality and cowardice of a little handful of men in Berlin who never have been anything but a pest in Europe."

"Is not that the greatest crime the world has ever known? And is it not strictly true? Does any sane German suppose the appointed end can be altered when the whole New World is ranged against Germany as well as the Old? They know all about the hundred million people in the States; and the millions of money; the innumerable factories; and shipyards."

KNOW STRENGTH OF UNITED STATES.
"They know that America can put hundreds of thousands of fresh troops on this front next Spring, and that the exhaustion of Germany long before then will be frightful. It is frightful now; it has been frightful for a year and more. They know it all; and, brute devils that they are, they choose to keep the awful slaughter going, not because they hope to alter the end, but for what? For what? Wait until the end, but for what? For what? To-day what they can put off till to-morrow, at the cost of another few millions of money. Never before since the world began has a twentieth part of such suffering been allowed to continue day after day and month after month to protect a handful of excited criminals from general recognition of their crimes. The Russian people rose and smashed the bonds that bound them. Yes, but not our people. Our tyrants have been clever. It was only the bodies of the Russian people that were fettered. Their minds were free. No German mind in Germany has been free since 1870. The Berlin criminals have seen too well to that. Our people think they have been well educated. So they have—very well, very carefully—for just what they are doing now; for the blindest and most damnable kind of slavery the world has ever seen; for a slavery in which the will of the masters must be paid for daily by steadily running streams of the blood of their victims, victims taught to bare their own throats to the knife on the word of command. If your armies could reach Germany itself the slavery might end suddenly. But Germany to-day is one vast prison full of starving slaves who cannot lift a hand to help themselves, and that it will remain while William the Murderer can go on buying a daily reprieve for his own miserable family in return for the blood of ten thousand of his slaves. Thank God I am out of it."

SWISS AGENT EXPELLED FROM RUSSIA.

BRANDED AS GERMAN EMISSARY.

The Provisional Government of Russia learnt from an unimpeachable source that Robert Grimm, the Swiss Socialist pacifist in Petrograd, received from M. Hoffmann, member of the Swiss Federal Council, the following oral communication:

"Germany will not undertake an offensive so long as she considers it possible to arrive at an understanding with Russia. Numerous conversations with prominent politicians lead me to believe that Germany is seeking to conclude with Russia a mutually honourable peace and a peace which would result in the reestablishment of close economic and commercial relations with Russia; the financial support of Germany to Russia for her restoration; no intervention in the internal affairs of Russia; a friendly understanding with regard to Poland, Lithuania, and Courland; the restoration to Russia of her occupied territories; in return for the districts of Austria invaded by Russia. I am convinced that if the Allies of Russia desired it, Germany and her allies would be ready immediately to open peace negotiations."

On hearing of this, the Russian Government requested the Socialist Ministers MM. Tsereteli and Skobelev to demand an explanation from M. Grimm, who handed to these Ministers a document in which he sought to prove that he had had no communication, either direct or indirect, on the subject of peace negotiations, and that the telegram mentioned above was an endeavour on the part of Germany to profit by his stay in Russia to reestablish the bonds of international Socialists and a general peace in the interests of the German Government; and furthermore that when in Berlin having his passport *valid*, he avoided all political conversations and all contact with the German Majority Socialists; and that finally, in his capacity of a Socialist, he could not be the intermediary for Imperialistic peace projects between Governments."

MM. Tsereteli and Skobelev found these explanations unsatisfactory, and the Provisional Government therefore requested M. Grimm to leave Russia."

The General Congress of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates of All Russia, discussed the expulsion of the Swiss Socialist Robert Grimm and adopted by 640 votes against 121 a resolution approving the attitude of the Socialist Ministers MM. Tsereteli and Skobelev, who investigated the affairs and proved M. Grimm's expulsion. The Congress expressed the view that the attitude of the Ministers corresponded perfectly with the interests of the Russian Revolution and International Socialism, and welcomed the decision of the Ministers to publish full details of the affair."

A CIPHER DISPATCH.

The Swedish Socialist newspaper *Socialdemokraten*, the organ of M. Branting, published the translation of a telegram sent in cipher from the political department of the Swiss Federal Council to M. Odier, Swiss Minister at Petrograd.

It was dated Berne, June 5th, 1917.

The telegram says:—

"M. Hoffmann, member of the Federal Council (of Switzerland), authorizes you to make to M. Grimm the following oral communication:—

"Germany will not undertake any offensive so long as an arrangement with Russia seems possible. After conversations with an important personage I am convinced that Germany aims at peace with Russia, honourable to both parties, with intimate economic and commercial relations, and financial support, to place Russia once again on her feet. No interference in the domestic affairs of Russia; an *entente cordiale* on Poland, Lithuania, and Courland, in view of the relationship between the people; the re-stitution of the occupied provinces; and Russia, on the other hand, to give back the Austrian provinces which she has been able to take."

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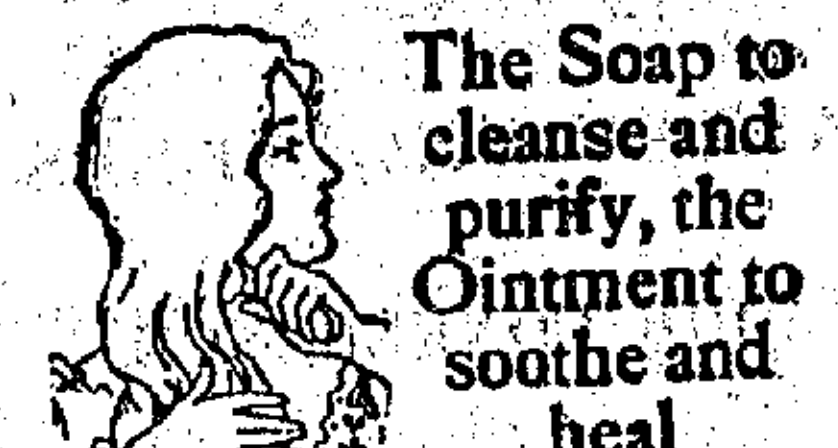
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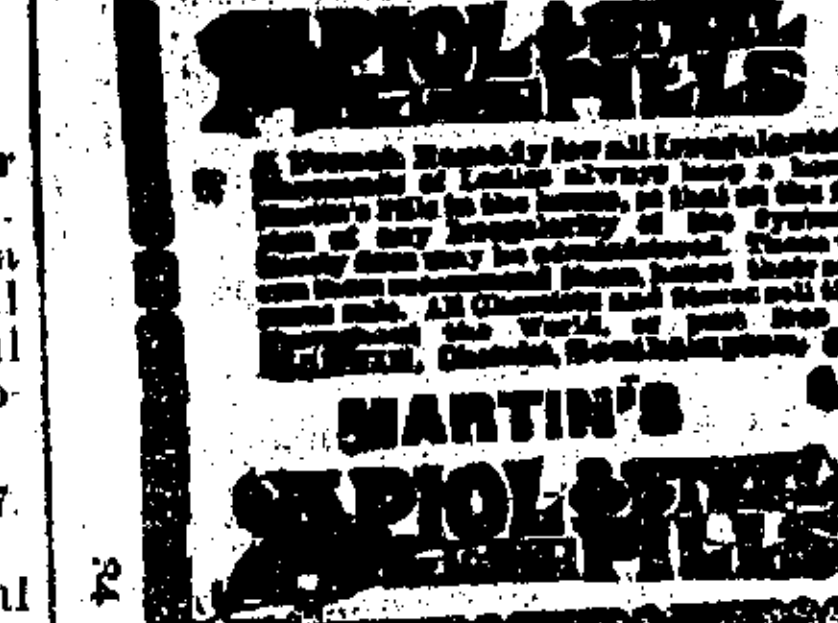


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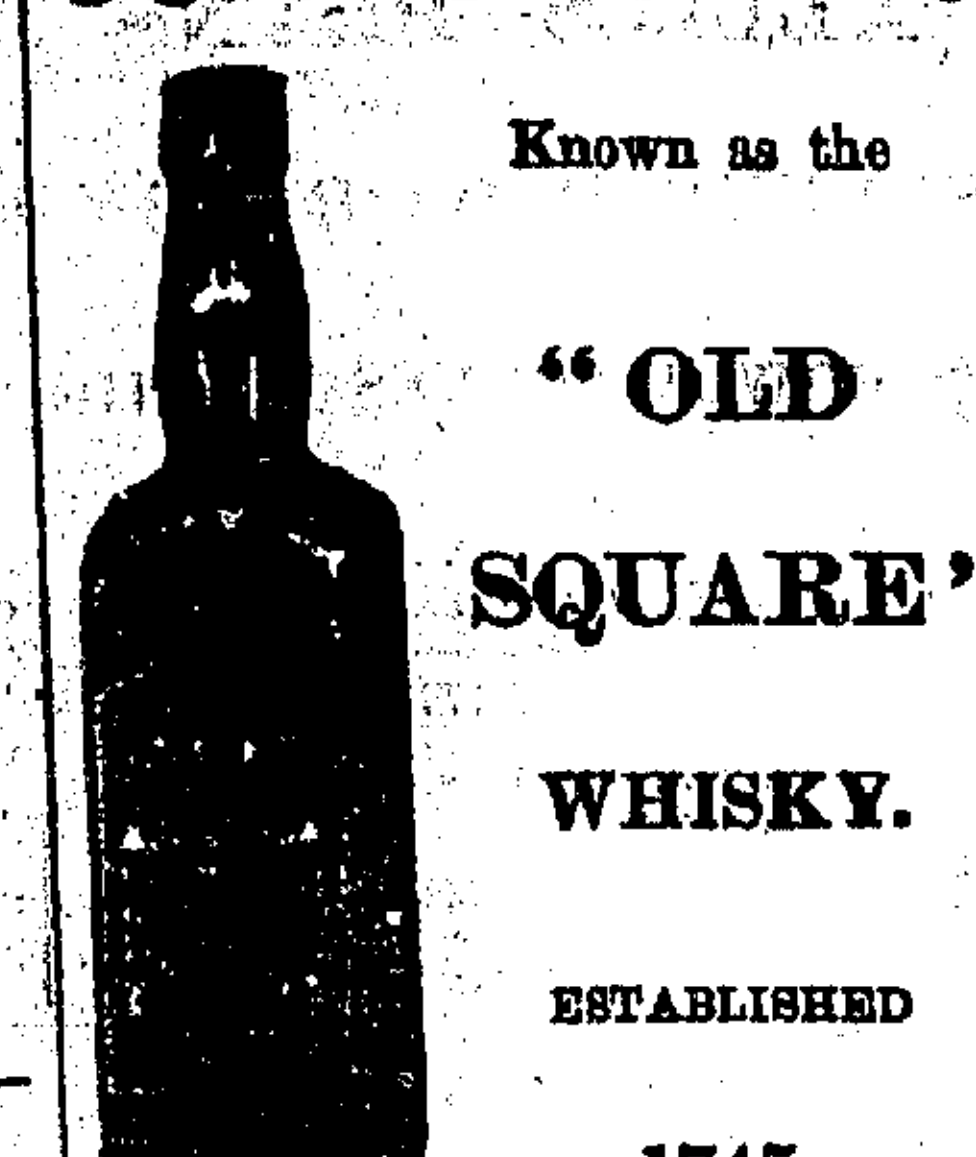
Saturday, 1st Sept. —

Noon — Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting.

12.15 pm. — Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

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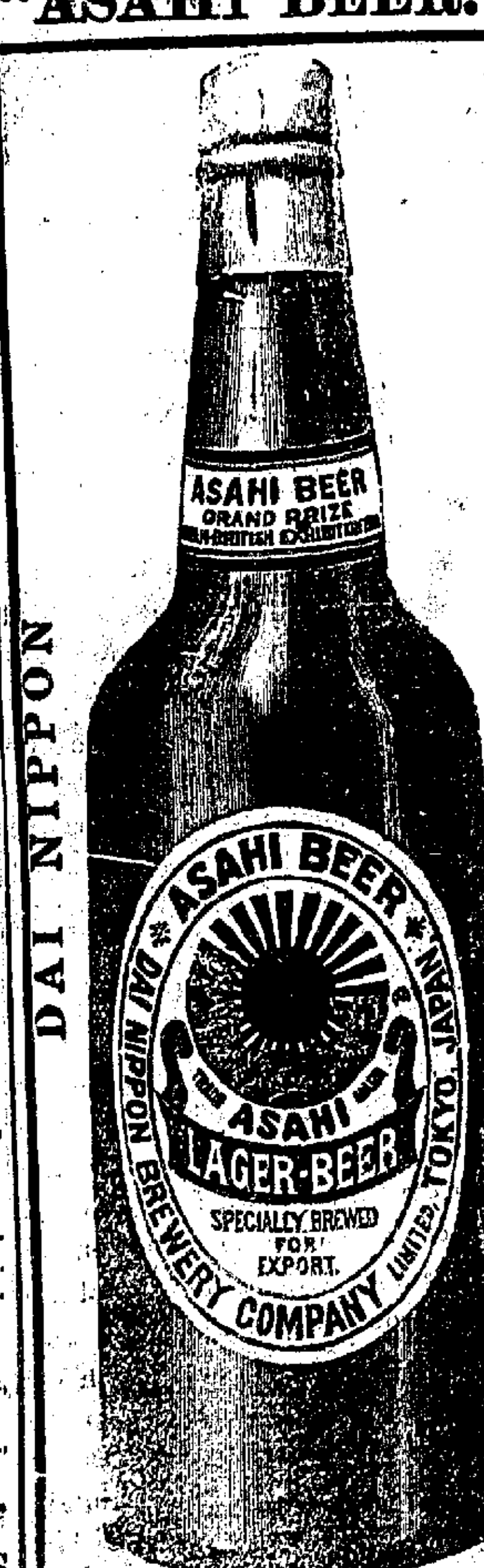
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SHANGHAI	"YINGCHOW"	On 26th Aug., 11 A.M.
WEIHAIWEI and TIENTSIN	"KUEIOW"	On 28th Aug., Noon.
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